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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BALTIMORE MAN SENTENCED FOR DRUG CONSPIRACY**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that William Thomas Bickford, age 36, of Baltimore, Maryland was sentenced today by Judge Marvin J. Garbis to serve 13 years incarceration followed by 5 years of supervised release for conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

According to the plea agreement presented to the court Bickford was arrested after a 2 ½ year investigation revealed that over 300 kilograms of cocaine were supplied to Bickford. Couriers drove to Florida to pick up the cocaine which was secreted in the hidden compartment of a car. Judge Garbis also found that Bickford attempted to obstruct justice by intimidating a witness and increased Bickford's sentence.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Baltimore County Police Department and Baltimore City Police Department and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys James G. Pyne and Jane M. Erisman.